

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
January 11, 2018

In Attendance:

Ross Shuart
Jeanne Bresnehan
Marilyn Manning
Ed Reilly
Florian Ptak
Luciano Silva
James Arpante
Sharon and Art Larsen
Vickie Donahue
Nancy McNabb
Amy Chin

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. The Minutes of December 14, 2017 were approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed.

President's Report:

Amy discussed passes for the Berkshire Botanical Garden. The cost would be \$120 for 2 adults and \$180 for 4 adults.

The "Great Courses" program was discussed, which consists of online learning and a DVD.

The Legislative Breakfast will be Friday, January 26th at the North Adams Library at 8 a.m.

The Executive Board will meet one week later for the March and November book sales.

Amy to look into joining the Literary Landmark program.

It was voted to approve \$100 to the American Library Association to aid library relief in Puerto Rico after the hurricane.

The book sale position consisting of bringing books from the garage and other heavy lifting type tasks was discussed again. Ed Reilly weighed in with liability issues and Florian remarked that there might be problems if a "volunteer" was paid. Sharon suggested that we advertise in large print around the library for someone who may be interested.

Library Director's Report:

Since Alex is on vacation, Luciano reminded us about the Legislative Breakfast on the 26th. Also, \$500 was allocated for a golf hole for the Literary Volunteer's mini golf benefit on Feb. 24th.

Membership:

There was no membership report available. Florian will revisit postage issues and commented that he could get stamps for 35% off.

Programs:

The Berkshire Hills Chorus (formerly Sweet Adelines) will perform on January 16th. The Very Interesting Lecture series will begin on Jan. 20th featuring James Arpante, and Jan. 27th with Paul Rocheleau.

\$150 was approved for Ann Tierney for her knitting instruction.

Book Sale:

Amy announced that the new square system for the book sale has arrived, and that she will set up a practice session before the next book sale.

There was discussion about picking up books from an elderly patron at Churchill Crest.

Newsletter:

The Newsletter arrived the first of the week. The next one will be after the book sale. Florian suggested that we think about timing the newsletter to arrive before book sales.

Publicity:

James has been hard at work with The Eagle in order to make sure we are correctly charged for our ads. The one in Up Country was very attractive. There also was a Holiday ad placed. Discussion took place about using placemats in restaurants with an ad. Nancy requested that James revisit the Albany Times Union for a possible ad for our summer sale.

Amy distributed a booklet from the Non-Profit Center of the Berkshires for possible inclusion of an ad next year.

Store:

Amy will design a slide for the store on the Library monitor to advertise our inventory.

Old Business:

The sorter's luncheon will be Wednesday, April 18th at 12:30. Nancy will furnish names so that an appropriate restaurant can be chosen. It was decided to offer a buffet, rather than ordering off the menu.

Up to \$300 was approved for an air cleaner for the Friends' book room. Florian will make the purchase, along with the necessary filters.

Ed Jurczyk is still confined at home because of a fall. Up to \$100 was approved for a get-well gift for him.

The next meeting is February 8th at 3 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan